GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:303
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
SETTING UP OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the farmers are not getting even the cost of their produce due to lack of cold storage facilities and food procesing industries in various parts of the country where the off season vegetables and tomatoes are produced particularly in Kullu, Mandi and Solan districts of Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether the Government have finalised the draft policy of setting up of Food Processing Industries;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the time by which it is likely to be finalised?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House

Statement in respect of Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 303

(a) to (d): While it is true that lack of post − harvest infrastructure, processing facilities and access to market leads to wastage and inadequate price realization in some parts of the country at some points of time, off season vegetables, generally command a better price in the market. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries through its various schemes assists Public Sector Undertakings, Non Governmental Organisations, Cooperatives and Private Sector Organisations in the creation of post harvest infrastructure and processing facilities and enhanced assistance is provided for difficult areas which include Himachal Pradesh. Further, through its scheme of backward linkage, the Ministry also seeks to ensure a mutually beneficial relationship between farmer and processor. In keeping with the objective of enhancing processing capability the Ministry has formulated a Draft National Food Processing Policy which provides amongst other things, for creation o f enabling environment, infrastructure development, backward and forward linkages etc. Keeping in view the urgency of the matter, Group of Ministers has been constituted to consider inter-alia, the Draft National Food Processing Policy. Taking into consideration the various procedures to be followed, a definite time frame for finalization of the policy is difficult to envisage.